critical digest

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This Week in NYC

Phoenix Theatre and City Center both made plans to open their seasons Sept 6 with important productions of summer festival originated presentations. The modern version of H.M.S. Pinafore staged by Tyrone Guthrie starting July 15 at Avon Theatre, Stratford, Ontario, will be presented for a limited five week engagement at the Phoenix. It will not be part of the regular five play subscription series. Eric House will be featured. Last week City Center announced the limited three week presentation of Marcel Marceau and his eight member Companghie de Mime in a mimeodrama, The Overcoat adapted by Marceau from the Gogol novel.

Plays

Gypsy vacations from Jul 11-Aug 15, re-opening at Imperial. Take Me Along vacations Jul 11-Jul 30... Theatre Guild and George Kondolf have asked Leonard Spiegelglass, Majority of One, to work with Florence Lowe on Sweet and Sour comedy which will star Menasha Skulnik Oct 25 at Ambassador, Original co-author Caroline Francke died last month... Invitation to a March by Arthur Laurents to bow Oct 26 at MusicBox with Shelley Winters, Eileen Heckart, Jane Fonda... I'm With You a new musical by Ray Rash-Dottie Wayne to be presented in Sept by Paul Gregory, Nat King Cole to star. ... Twin bill of Molly Kazan short plays, Rosemary and Paradise Hotel to be presented by Victor Samrock with Piper Laurie, Bill Daniels, Gerald Freedman to direct.

Players

Judith Evelyn to star Jul 4-Aug 13 in Five Finger Exercise during Jessica Tandy's vacation... Candace Culkin, understudy, to sub for Patty Duke, The Miracle Worker, Jul 4-9, while latter is on vacation... Barbara Williams replaced Arlyne Frank, The Music Man... Ben Hammer signed to understudy both Lou Jacobi, George Voskovec, The Tenth Man ... Patrick Horgan to be featured in Irma La Douce... E.G. Marshall signed for lead in Rhinoceros.

Legal Dept

Actors Equity named fifteen member committee headed by John Effrat to work with League of NY Theatres for the repeal of 5% NY City admission tax... Ticket brokers plan to give 5c per ticket of their $1.50 fee toward actors pension fund if both party agents and club managers agreed has hit snag with refusal of two latter sections to join. They claim only 20c per ticket is their commission. League of NY Theatres will continue to seek ways to gain this aid.

Calendar

Dear Aunt Helen-Judson Hall-165 W 57- 7/17. Roberta Bailey presents and directs her new Negro drama with Audrey Griffens, Marlene Simpson. To be presented week-ends only.

3 Avant Garde Plays-Gate 7/21. Theatre for the Swan (Stephen Quinto-Robert Scher) present triple bill of one act plays. Santa Claus by e.e.cummings, Calvary by William Butler Yeats, Escurial by Michel de Ghelderode, translated by Lionel Abel.

Theatre Film Notes

Daniel Petrie to direct Raisin in the Sun film to be made in July in Chicago. ... Hal Holbrook to film his Mark Twain Tonight! presentation at Mark Twain's home, Hartford, Conn. for Coronet Instructional Films project... Albert Goodrich- Frances Hackett to write screen play of Five Finger Exercise which will star Rosalind Russell.

Theatre Book Notes

"A Theatre in Your Head" by Kenneth Thorpe Rowe published by Funks & Wagnalls ($6.95)... "Pirandello and the French Theatre" by Thomas Bishop published by NYU Press ($.50)..." Sean O'Casey: The Man and His Work" by David Krause, Brown University, to be published in Aug by Macmillan.

Theatre TV Notes

TV program based on certain aspect of Eugene O'Neill's life approved by Mrs O'Neill for presentation next season by David Susskind.

European Theatre

An American Repertory company organized by Lawrence Langer under auspices of State Dept to tour Europe next spring. Three American classics will be presented for 30 week tour. In addition to State Dept Cultural Exchange Program funds, the Theatre Guild Foundation will aid... The Best Man to be presented at Berlin Festival Oct 4 at Schiller Theatre, Boselaw Barlog director... The Tenth Man to be presented in Stockholm in Sept by Lars Schmidt. ... Judith Anderson to join Old Vic tour of Soviet in The Sea Gull... English language theatre planned for Florence by Joseph Gordon. $78,000 being raised in US and England for Angle-American Theatre which will present 25 week season of repertory Apr to Oct with US and British players. Kermit Bloomgarden is NY fund raising chairman.

Off Broadway

Oh Kay! suspended run after 89th performance and plans to reopen in Sept prior to West Coast tour. Final week of run they presented free copies of original cast album to first 100 ticket buyers... Prodigal switching from Sun performances to two on both Fri & Sat eves... Kate Wilkinson replaced Sara Seeger, Ernest in Love... David Starkey taken over lead of Leave It to Jane.

Basil Rathbone first of special hosts for John Brown's Body presenting opening narration. Peggy Wood, Tom Ewell and Geraldine Page also will be hosts for one week each... Deep Are the Roots to be revived in fall by Lynn Michaels-Bernice Barkan, Bert Conway director.. Epitaph for George Dillon to be revived in fall by George Morrison-Edward Hastings-Richard Lipsett.

Shakespeare

John Myhers signed for Antony and Cleopatra, Stratford, Conn.

London

The Visit with the Lunts drew rave notices for stars with diverse views on the play... Rhinoceros will continue to Jul 30 at Strand... Outdoor shows will be presented this summer in Bishop's Park, Fulham.

Dublin Festival

Dublin International Theatre Festival Sept 11-25 to feature debut of Brendan Behan's The Catacomb and Siobhan McKenna in a new production of The Playboy of the Western World.

Outer Broadway Theatre Letter

Starting with this issue of CD a new weekly two page supplement "Outer Broadway Theatre Letter" will be included at no extra cost. It will present every week of the year exclusive editorial coverage of the outstanding College, Community and Summer Theatre. News of top productions, tryouts of new plays, data on new theatres, etc will be reported. Plus weekly coverage of reviews and interviews of top productions. It will supplement the complete coverage of the NY theatre scene in "CD."

((Late News& Reviews-Supplement))

DIGESTS OF CURRENT NYC THEATRE REVIEWS

Henry V- Central Park, NY- 6/30 6 pro- unanimous- (no Mirror review filed- for opening of fifth season of free performances by NY Shakespeare Festival, presented at the 2400 seat amphitheatre in the Belvedere Lake Theatre. Direction of producer Joe Papp, cast headed by James Ray in title role, Arthur Malet, Thomas Aldredge, Kathleen Widdoes, music of David Amram and costumes and sets by Eldon Elder shared plaudits. Gelb, Times, cheered it as a vividly beautiful, rousingly paced pageant, a lot more for free than many NY producers sell for $9.90. Kerr, Herald Tribune, rated entire production as something to be grateful for, except for a few overstrained voices it is all involved at a first time alertness. Chapman, News, didn't agree with colleagues that historical play was ideally suited for outdoor setting, but he approved of nicely presented version by large, active and well-costumed number of disciples. Herridge, Post, liked it as lively, free theatre, but didn't think it was one of Papp's best jobs. Drama editor felt major flaw was in casting of title role, Ray seems at times more of an earnest Boy Scout than a regal fiture. McClain, Journal American, enjoyed production and specially Ray for playing with fine combination of inspiration and earthiness. Aston, World Telegram & Sun, billed the production itself as highspot of evening, and only wonders what Papp would do if he had money. Second presentation of season will open Jul 27- Measure for Measure.

King John- Stratford, Ontario- 6/28. Atkinson, Times, and Crist, Herald Tribune, applauded opening of eighth season of Stratford, Ontario, Shakespeare Festival for the director and players rather than what both termed a dull play. Douglas Seale directed cast headed by Christopher Plummer, Douglas Rain, Max Helpmann, and Julie Harris. Times reviewer noted that speech and style of entire company is uniform and perfect, with the script providing some moments of theatrical gusto he suggested that if anyone is planning to put on one of Shakespeare's dull plays he should send for director Seale on the double. Herald Tribune arts editor, felt that even with the best of players present, the production can provide little more than a momentary excitement.

A Midsummer Night-s Dream-Stratford, Ont-6/29. Atkinson, Times, filed mild con on second production, staged by Douglas Campbell. The general performance is diffuse and busy, the director having chosen movement above poetry, and the eyes of the audience cannot hear the sensuous lyric poetry. Crist, Herald Tribune, filed a pro for the handsom, happy offering, a credit to director and the cast and a delight to behold.

Girl Crazy- Westbury, NY- 6/25. Coleman, Mirror, enjoyed updated production of 1930 Gershwin musical presented by Lee Guber-Frank Ford-Shelly Gross at their five eastern summer tents. Danny Scholl, Joy Claussen, Christine Norden, Harvey Lembeck head cast directed by Richard Barstow. Even though first performance was halted and then continued due to a heavy rainstorm, critic recommended it as Gershwin at his best, with fun and irresistible tunes.

A Night of George Gershwin- Sterling Forest, Tuxedo, NY 6/25. Coleman, Mirror, applauded musical concert by Paul Whitman and his Orchestra given as first bill at new St. John Terrell tent, with music programs presented week-ends only. 70 year old band master was and still is tops in field, reviewer noted. Critic personally had himself a nostalgic ball, reliving treasured memories.

THEATRE BOOK COMMENTS

" Edwin Forrest: First Star of the American Stage" by Richard Moody (Knopf $6.95) highly recommended by Ruggles, Times, and Rodo, Variety. Times reviewer felt only possible fault may lie in the author's apparent reluctance to select from a mass of material. But more important he does communicate his enthusiasm for the man he writes about, thereby putting every lover of the theatre deeply in his debt. Trade paper mugg, labled it as the most complete bio to date of the first American born star, gracefully written, well - illustrated, a top accomplishment in show biz biography. Author is director of the Indiana University Theatre.

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PROS & CONS BY TMK

Theatre of Chance twin bill avant garde program of Living Theatre is a dull, unpoetic combination of a gibberish joke and a boring, modern adaptation of a Greek tragedy. The Marrying Maiden claims to present sentences at random from "I Ching" and couldn't be more uninteresting if it really did. Ezra Pound's version of Sophocles' Women of Trachis presents a student's precis of the tragedy, minus any beauty, poetry or feelings. With the exception of Judith Malina and Leonard Hicks most of the histronics in both plays seems at the level of a progressive grammar school class. Such plays not only give avant garde a bad name, but make the recent Ionesco plays first rate literature and theatre by anybody's standards.

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A Night of George Gershwin with Paul Whitman presented as the opening music program at Sterling Forest Music Circus, Tuxedo, NY was a delightful evening of standard fare professionally presented. The informal comments by Whitman, his firm control of the work and his orchestra, and his usual fine selection of singers made the fresh air event a prime example of this new kind of summer theatre. Outstanding moments were the trio of selections beautifully sung by Olga James and Rawn Spearman from Porgy and Bess.

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A repertory company of American plays by American players to tour Europe for 30 weeks next year is the goodwill present of the State Department and the Theatre Guild Foundation. In planning the stops on this tour the producers would be wise to study the remarks made at the Feb. ANTA Assembly on the subject of State Department tours. Harsh criticism was made by participants that a majority of the audiences they gave concerts to were either State Dept employees and/or top members of the diplomatic colony. Time for programs at local colleges and high schools were squeezed in, much to the chagrin of the State Dept sponsors. The advice of the speakers- John Sebastian, Martha Graham, Blanche Thebon- was frank and valuable, and applies to dramatic presentations as well as musical concerts.

* *

Who needs new theatres in NYC? The Mansfield Theatre returns to legit after a 10 year TV run Sept 12 with Vintage '60, and rumor has it that the Biltmore Theatre also will be ready for live theatre starting in mid-Aug. Add to this last year's return of the Ambassador and the Longacre and you can see the debt theatre has to pay the invention of TV tape. At the rate of two houses per year. Broadway may soon have as many sites as Off Broadway.

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1960 air conditioning Off Broadway is something to sneeze about. Within the space of a very few years the "air- cooled " downtown playhouse which maybe had one tiny fan has graduated to the point of efficient, noiseless systems. Uptown many of the theatres are already fully air-conditioned and with the addition of the Shubert block more than 2/3 will be by fall. The old excuse for not presenting new productions in the summer months is gone, both on and Off Broadway. Broadway movie houses have long been the refugee of both visitors and New Yorkers in summer for the simple reason that they have seen all the available theatre productions.

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Come the first week in Sept NY will witness two of the best of the summer festival productions at the Phoenix Theatre and at the City Center. There is no reason to believe that large audiences of theatre hungry fans, composed of out of town visitors and New Yorkers, would not relish other samples of the best of the summer theatre programs in the summer too.

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OUTER BROADWAY
THEATRE LETTER
College----Community--- Summer

July 4, 1960 Vol XII No 14 Weekly Supplement of "Critical Digest" 139 E 47, NYC- EL 5-6894. $25 per year for full "CD" service

College Theatre

Brandeis University Arts Department has received a share in Gypsy as as present from David Merrick to provide scholarships. Producer also plans to give shares of some of his future productions to other small liberal art colleges with good arts departments.

Northwestern University to present One Foot in Heaven, a new musical with score by Earl Robinson and book by Lewis Allen this fall.

American Academy of Dramatic Arts opened its first summer theatre operation this week-end at Putnam County Playhouse, Mahopac, NY with No Time for Sergeants.

Community Theatre

A new 182 seat house will open in Cincinatti's Eden Park in a converted city park building. Anvil, Inc has been formed to raise $35,000. David Marlin Jones, director, Gerald Covell manager. They hope to start with a repertory company in Sept.

Actor's Workshop of San Francisco presenting US premiere of John Whiting's Saint's Day in repertory with The Marriage of Mr. Mississippi by Friedrich Duerrenmatt. Starting July 15 at Encore Theatre Actor's Workshop will present US premiere of Harold Pinter's The Birthday Party, staged by guest director Glynne Wickham, head of Dept of Drama of Bristol University and a director of the Bristol Old Vic.

Milwaukee's Fred Miller Theatre may send out several road presentations of its most popular productions next seasons. They would tour via trailer truck, and would be available for sponsorship by local organizations.

New Summer Theatres

Painters Mill, Md and Sterling Forest Music Circus, Tuxedo, NY both opened this week. Former is the fifth operation of Lee Guber-Frank Ford-Shelly Gross, latter is the fourth operation of St. John Terrell. Guber-Ford-Gross have mounted ten productions for their 2000 seat tents including West Side Story, Girl Crazy, Redhead, Paint Your Wagon and Student Prince.

Calendar- Tryouts

The Underpants-Princeton, NJ 7/5-7/10. University Players present new play by Carl Sternheim.

Roar Like a Dove- Dennis, Mass 7/2-7/9. Cape Playhouse presents new English play by Lesley Storm directed by Robert Ellis with Betsy Palmer, Paul McGrath, Luella Gear.

Royal Enclosure-Sacandaga Park, NY 7/5/-7/10. Sacandaga Park Summer Theatre presents new play by Kieran Tunney with Celeste Holm, Cathleen Nesbitt.

Abracadabra- Falmouth, Mass 7/2-7/9. Falmouth Playhouse presents new play by Mel Dinelli- Stephen Joseph with Hermione Gingold.

Unusual Summer Revivals

Wedding in Japan - Brighton Beach NY 7/5-7/15.

Craig's Wife- Nyack, NY 6/30-7/9 with Tallulah Bankhead

The Little Hut-Nantucket, Mass 7/4-7/9

Noah- Buffalo, NY 6/30-7/10. Also Medford, Mass 7/5-9.

The Enchanted-Matunuck, RI-7/4-7/9. with Walter Abel.

A Touch of the Poet-Provincetown, Mass 6/30-7/9.

The Disenchanted-Woodstock, NY 7/6-7/10

State of the Union-New Hope, Pa-7/4-7/16. With Sloan Simpson & Philip Bourneuf.

The Spider's Web-Chautauqua-NY 7/7-7/8. Cleveland Playhouse production.

Summer and Smoke-Georges Mills, N.H 7/4-7/9.

Pygmalion- Eagles Mere, Penn 7/6-7/9.

Life With Father-Olney, Md-7/5-7/17.

Show Boat- Harrisburg, Penn 7/2-7/16.

Summer Playhouses

First strawhat theatre to cancel operations this season is Elysian Productions which had planned resident stock company at Legion Star Playhouse, Ephrata, Penn. Plans were dropped when producer Sal Papa informed that a 10% local admission tax would be levied... Mountain Theatre, Braddock Heights, Md reopened with 10 week season presented by William O Brining-Mozelle Cavalier, theatre folded in mid-season last year due to bankruptcy.

A second company of the current Off Broadway hit The Zoo Story by Edward Albee will be presented at Catskill summer hotels, directed by the author.

No Concern of Mine by Jeremy Kingston which starts summer package tour on Jul 11 at Westport, Conn, Country Playhouse features Jane Fonda, Ben Piazza, Geoffrey Horne, staged by Andreas Voutsinas will be one of the few experimental plays presented on the entire strawhat circuit.

Helen Hayes to star in The Chalk Garden Aug 8 at Nyack, NY... Constance Bennett in September Tide replaced the cancelled appearance of George Raft in Broadway Jul 12 at DruryLane Theatre, Chicago... Kevin McCarthy subbed at short notice for Morgan Stern at North Jersey Playhouse, Paramus, production of Two for the Seesaw with Shelley Winters, after Stern injured his shoulder... Marc Connelly to appear in Our Town Aug 3-4 at Summer Arts Festival, State University College of Education, Brockport, NY... Menasha Skulnik and Joan Diener co-star in new American version of Offenbach's Helen of Troy Jul 28 at Cambridge, Mass, Drama Festival, with new book adapted by Bill Hoffmann and Marshall Barer, staged by Albert Marre.

Trio of repertory productions presented by Association of Producing Artists currently in Hamilton, Bermuda, will be seen Aug 1-13 at Bucks County Playhouse, New Hope, Penn in Man and Superman, The Sea Gull and a new musical version of Affairs of Anatol. Ellis Rabb directed casts headed by Richard Easton, Rosemary Harris.

An Evening With Mike Nichols and Elaine May will start its pre-Broadway tour Sept 12 at Westport, Conn, Country Playhouse, prior to Oct 8 NY debut at Golden.

"CD" VISITS

John Brown's Body production is the first professional showcase presentation of the work of the graduate Yale School of Drama seen in NYC, on or Off Broadway. Critically it has been accepted as one of the better Off Broadway presentations of a hectic season , while professionally it ranks with the best of Broadway production standards.

Primarily responsible for moving the Benet dramatic poem from New Haven to a short road tour to NY prior to a national tour in the fall is Herschel V. Williams, playwright and ad executive graduate of the first class of the famed institution. He saw the New Haven debut in Jan of this year by the same group which had presented the first performance of J.B. three years ago . Agreeing with the local critics and audiences that the Benet work was one of the best Yale School of Drama had ever done, Williams set up a short spring tour. The same trio of leads--Angela Wood, Bernard Engel, Donald Moreland--and the choir played to sellout audiences in Annapolis and Washington. D. C. at the end of Mar. After a NY showing in May at East 74th St Theatre, Williams formed Centennial Productions to present the Benet play as well as other dramas based on the Civil War.

Planned to open in NY at the Players Theatre on Mac - Dougal St on a budget of $5000, production expenses which were unexpected soon raised the pre-opening cost to $8000, Williams told "Critical Digest" in an exclusive interview. While it could have been presented at a fraction of this cost if brought in as a "college production" without the various theatre union problems, Williams did not think it would be of any value to either the production or to the players to be anything less than a professional production.

From the latter standpoint the results already have been overwhelming specially in the case of Angela Wood . Her background includes training at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts, three years with British repertory and on BBC drama and a summer with Group 20 Players, Wellesley, Mass. Doing all of the female roles in the Benet reading has not only brought a set of fine notices , but the attention of almost every top agent in NY.

Many people, Mrs Benet included, think the current version is better than the original, Williams said. They found it moved them more than the 1953 star production with Raymond Massey, Judith Anderson, Tyrone Power , and also that they could better identify themselves with the characters.

From a personal viewpoint Williams, the co-author of the 1942 hit Janie with Brock Pemberton , was interested in presenting the epic poem classic Off Broadway to see if there was a place for work with truly epic qualities that does not deal with sewer-semantic avant -garde themes. His own interest in Civil War subjects stems from his writing for four years of a weekly NBC radio presentation "Roses and Drums" and from his own background as a Southerner, born in Georgia and raised in New Orleans.

Centennial Productions together with the American Academy of Arts are planning a Stephen Vincent Benet prize of $5000 for the best epic play suitable for theatre presentation by American and Canadian authors. Details will be announced later for the contest which will close in Apr 1962. Centennial Productions, which will present other plays on the Civil War, includes on its board--H. C. Potter, Robert Whitehead, Alfred de Liagre. A national tour of John Brown's Body starts in Boston in Sept.

From the playgoer's viewpoint there can be no question that the graduate Yale Drama School, whose alumni include a bookfull of the theatre's most important people, is really "legit" and has no fears of being buried in its own ivy.

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LATE NYC NEWS & REVIEWS

LATE NYC NEWS: Once Upon a Mattress closed after 470 performances and playing at 5 different theatres. Carol Burnett left leading role last week, replaced by Ann B. Davis ...Mansfield Theatre, W 47, rented by CBS for the past 10 years, will return to legit theatre Sept 12 with David Merrick's production of Vintage '60 , West Coast revue he will present in association with Zev Bufman-George Shaff-Max Perkins. Theatre owned by Michael Myerberg will be refurbished at a cost of $200,000...David Hurst signed for Rhinoceros ... Rufus Smith replaced Frederic Downs, Fiorello!...Osborne Smith joins Irma La Douce ...Irene Kane to be featured in Tenderloin ...Patrick O'Neal to play role of screen actor John Gilbert in Laurette... Actors Equity-League of NY Theatres talks extended from Jun 30 to Jul 8 . If no settlement made on remaining issues of cut off point on which the producers will pay pension fees on star salaries, it will go to three man arbitration panel.

Romeo and Juliet- Stratford, Ont- 6/30 . Two NY reviewers differed on merits of third and final play in repertory of Stratford, Ont, Shakespeare Festival's eighth season starring Julie Harris and Bruno Gerussi. Atkinson, Times, filed a rave notice for Harris' portrayal done with the maturity of an artist who knows how to express the elusive emotions of an imagined maiden and for everything in the production which blends perfectly with her characterization. Times aisle-sitter cheered Michael Langham's sensitive and resolved piece of direction, as well as Christopher Plummer, Kate Reid, Douglas Rain. But Crist, Herald Tribune, panned lack of imagination in direction, a rather boring half baked Romeo, and the soon monotonous shrillness in Harris' voice. Plummer she approved as magnificent but even with the lush sets and costumes not enough to compensate for the inade - quacies of the production.

Aquarama 1960-Flushing Meadow Amphitheatre, NY 6/30 7 pro- unanimous- on new water-vaude show presented at outdoor 8200 seat stadium by Dick Randall with Buster Crabbe , Johnny Edwards, Richard Hayes and Vincent Lopez and his orchestra. All recommended it as family entertainment, air - cooled and low priced. Funke, Times, rated it as an aimable, more or less conventional assortments of acts on land and in the water which manages inspite of planes from La Guardia Airport to hold attention through most of the long program. Morganstern, Herald Tribune, enjoyed wet segments better than land acts but okayed it as a popular family attraction on a hot evening. Gilbert, Mirror, billed it as one of the best family entertainment buys in the city, much improved from previous trys. Chapman, News, was pleasantly surprised to find it wasn't a bad show at all, offering a variety of events calculated to entertain young and old alike. Herridge, Post, agreed that present edition avoided many faults of past making a long, but on the whole congenial show, smartly directed. McClain, Journal American, noted that worldly clients may not find it amusing, but the kids love it and much of their enthusiasm brushes off on their parents. Benson, World Telegram & Sun, found it a pleasing, enjoyable evening, he top rated the diving clowns Johnny Edwards and Jimmy Goodhead as stars of the event.

GREEN ROOM DEPARTMENT

PRO TAX REPEAL... Efforts to repeal both the 10% federal admission tax on theatre tickets, as proposed by Sen Javits and Rep Lindsay, and the 5% NY city tax, should be supported widely, urges World Telegram & Sun editorial. Paper sees no other feasible way to lift the theatre out of economic quicksand. Raising ticket prices is not a satisfactory answer, since that would only make business worse, particularly for marginal producers.

COLUMN TIPS... A group of headlining actors and producers to take over Biltmore Theatre from CBS in NYC, rename it after a current star and open a new play by mid-Aug, hears Farrell, World Telegram & Sun... An electronic ticket machine which can be installed in department stores, hotels, etc will give current availabilities of Broadway tickets, notes Kilgallen, Journal American... Musical version of Blithe Spirit being readied for three stars, reports Walker, News.

BWAY SURVEY... NY Dept of Commerce & Public Events survey conducted in Times Square information booth during the Broadway blackout revealed that of 500 queried only 22% had no interest in Broadway theatre. 85% were out-of-towners and 38% planned to spend $10 per person on tickets, 22% between $10-$20, and 18% more than $20.

DRAMA MAIL BOX... Producer-director Herman Shumlin wrote to Herald Tribune in behalf of the repeal of the 5% NYCity admission tax, warning that if it is not done it will not be too long before Broadway as we at present know it will not exist, the blackout will be for good, the jewel that the theatre is in NY's crown will be lost... "CD" subscriber wonders why the interesting suggestions of percentage assestments of star's salaries hasn't been considered again in the establishment of the Equity pension plan.

CRITICAL THOUGHTS... San Francisco's journalistic practice of the morning papers holding their reviews until the following day, with the afternoon paper reviews coming out first rated as interesting by Watts, Post, now en route to Hong Kong... Somerset Maugham's reason for not writing any more plays, as detailed by Cerf, Journal American: It is too difficult to please both the scullery maid sitting in the top balcony and the critic for the London Times at same time. I believe I can write for either one, but please both, never! Their tastes are too dissimiliar... Crosby, Herald Tribune, admits it is not true that if an actor gets a laugh in an American musical he is led out and shot. He is only drummed out of the profession.

SECOND GUESSES... American Shakespeare Festival is in danger of being ready to settle down as a kind of cultural Howard Johnson's, fears Kerr, Herald Tribune. Whatever is wrong with the productions is deliberately, conscientiously, imaginatively wrong. The language now is utterly, forcibly, endlessly clear, and the play is still dull... Atkinson, Times, Sun. article on Stratford, Conn. The Tempest rated it ingeneral as an enjoyable performance because it captures the pleasant, pensive mood of the play. Some of the parts are superficially played and WilliamBall's direction although informed and enterprising, leaves some of the edges fuzzy.

LONDON STAGE VIEWS... Time and time again actors have bitten the hand that fed the tickets, "Stage" editorial comments. After seeing a show for which they accepted an invitation, they have been known to run around the town telling everyone to keep away from the show, continues British trade journal. These stories have filtered back to the management, who are understandably chary about filling their empty seats with people who will repay them by crying stinking fish. To expect actors to say a play is wonderful, just because they have seen it on free seats is absurd. But they might at least maintain a discreet silence in the presence of the general public, who are still a potential audience. Many a play has run over a year inspite of its failure to win the respect of actors, who are not always the best judge of public taste.

INTER-VIEW HI-LITES

JOSEPH KRAMM, author of Pulitizer Prize play The Shrike in 1952 readying his return to Broadway this fall with Giants, Sons of Giants raised 50% of the investment by reading all 18 parts in his new play to groups of backers, he told Shannon, World Telegram & Sun. No matter how important a prize a writer has won, he cannot rest on his laurels. People who think otherwise are not creative, but are only watching creative people from the outside.

HARVEY SCHMIDT, composer of The Fantasticks, is a part-time music maker who composed the songs and score for the Off Broadway hit in his spare time from his job as a graphics designer for NBC, and with knowing hardly a note of music, he told Johnson, Post.

HAROLD STONE, director of Ernest in Love, believes few actors are capable of doing anything except extensions of themselves, he told Calta, Times. After auditioning more than 200 actors for the title role of the Wilde musical adaptation in a period of five weeks he complained that American performers were ignoring the artificial aspects of acting, which are often the most entertaining. This is first directorial assignment of Broadway stage manager.

JOHNNY GILBERT, ticket taker at Music Box since 1925, has been a full time employ of the Consolidated Edison Company in the daytime for 25 years, he told Chapman, News. Being a ticket taker is no cinch. It means putting 1000 people into a theatre in less than a half hour and keeping them from clogging the doorway. It means encountering many difficult people, mostly drunks. After 39 years in the theatre, he is retiring.

DAVID PELHAM, American producer in London whose recent Bachelor Flat lasted 3 performances, isn't worried about his British record of four flops and one hit (Auntie Mame) in two years, he told Wald, Herald Tribune. While backers in London are harder to get he can mount a show for $14,000, there are more theatres available, and there is a larger pool of actors available. His biggest complaint is the critical fraternity who seem to be worlds apart from the public.

TASHIO KAWATAKE, translator for the Grand Kabuki Company and Associate Professor of Drama, Waseda University, told Calta, Times, that the Japanese performers, none of whom spoke English, never stopped sightseeing during their NY engagement. The leading players saw and enjoyed Sound of Music, The Miracle Worker, and La Plume de Ma Tante. They also noted that though there is no single actor's union in Japan, strikes by casts are very fashionable.

ANN B. DAVIS, new leading lady of Once Upon a Mattress, waited 12 years for her first Broadway role, she told Cleaves, World Telegram & Sun. TV actress seen for the past five years on the Bob Cummings program admits her career has been slow at times, but it has progressed logically.

LEILA MARTIN, ingenue lead of Ernest in Love, is currently auditioning for three Broadway roles and would love any of them, she told Herridge, Post. For seven months she headed West Side Story touring company, and missed being on Broadway when Carol Lawrence decided to return. Her first Broadway role was in 1951 in Two on the Aisle, and she appeared in the three day run of The Best House in Naples.

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July 4,1960 THEATRE FACT CHART--CRITICAL DIGEST--139 E 47,NYC-EL 5-6894
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Theatre Fact Chart presents up-to-minute data on current business and critical reaction on current Broadway and Off Broadway shows. Top week-end prices and opening dates are listed.

SUBSCRIBERS ONLY may write or phone for any other specific critical data and/or for specific details of late NYC reviews and Out of Town Tryout reviews.

"C"-Critical-figures refer to percentage of PRO votes filed by 7 NYC daily newspaper reviewers. PRO means show was recommended for entertaining and/or stimulating evening, not if critic predicted if show would be a commercial hit (earn back investment .)

"B"-Business- figures refer to percentage of gross ticket sales last week and indicates current availability of tickets. Figures that follow , all in thousands of dollars, are gross capacity (CAP) and corrected Variety estimates for gross business the past week and preceding weeks. Thus 100% B- Cap $80--$80 $74- $76- means show was a sellout the past week at $80,000, the previous week's gross was $74,000, etc.

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NOTE: X in Gross Figures Denotes Broadway dispute blackout Jun 2-12

BEST MAN Morosco $7.50 3/31/60	236 W 45 CI 6-6230	100% C- 7 Pro- 3 raves 100% B- Cap $41--$41 $41 X $41 $41 $41
BYE BYE BIRDIE Beck $8.60 4/14/60	302 W 45 CI 6-6363	90% C- 1 Con- Times- rest all raves 100% B- Cap $58--$58 $58 X $58 $56 $56
FIORELLO! Broadhurst $9.40 11/23/59	235 W 44 CI 6-6699	100% C- 5 raves-Post, WTS milder book 100% B- Cap $58--$59 $59 X $59 $59 $59
FIVE FINGER EXERCISE Music Box $7.50 12/2/59	245 W 45 CI 6-4636	90% C- 1 Con- News- 5 raves 35% B- Cap $40--$13 $14 X $20 $22 $21
GYPSY Broadway $9.40 5/21/59	1681 Bway JU 2-3897	100% C- 7 pro- J Am milder book 50% B- Cap $83--$42 $42 X-Vac 7/11-8/15
LA PLUME Royale $8.05 11/11/58	242 W 45 CI 5-5760	100% C- 6 raves- Times milder 85% B- Cap $45--$36 $33 X $38 $36 $36
MIRACLE WORKER Playhouse $7.50 10/19/59	137 W 48 CI 5-6060	100% C- 5 raves-Times, WTS milder 100% B- Cap $36--$35 $35 X $36 $36 $32
MUSIC MAN Majestic $8.05 12/19/57	245 W 44 CI 6-0730	100% C- 6 raves- H Trib milder 85% B- Cap $70--$58 $50 X $47 $47 $49
MY FAIR LADY Hellinger $8.05 3/15/56	235 W 51 PL 7-7064	100% C- 7 raves Play-News OK P Char. 75% B- Cap $70--$55 $56 X $58 $56 $56
ONCE UPON MATTRESS St James $6.90 5/11/59	246 W 44 LA 4-4664	90% C- 1 Con- News 40% B- Cap $60--$27 $23 X $31 $31 $27
SOUND OF MUSIC Lunt $9.90 11/16/59	205 W 46 JU 6-5555	90% C- 1 Con- H Trib- 3 raves 100% B- Cap $76--$76 $76 X $76 $76 $76
TAKE ME ALONG Shubert $9.50 10/22/59	225 W 44 CI 6-5910	90% C- 1 Con- Mirror-2 raves-News, WTS 85% B - Cap $64--$51 $48 X $64 Vac 7/9-
TENTH MAN Booth $7.50 11/5/59	222 W 45 CI 6-5969	100% C- 7 pro- 2 raves- Times, News 90% B- Cap $32--$28 $27 X $28 $29
THURBER CARNIVAL ANTA $7.50 2/26/60	245 W 52 CI 6-6270	100% C- 6 raves- Mirror milder Aug in Colo- Re-Opens Sept 1
TOYS IN ATTIC Hudson $7.50 2/2/5/ 60	141 W 44 JU 6-2237	100% C- 5 raves-Times, J Am milder 75% B - Cap $40--$28 $30 X $35 $36 $35
WEST SIDE STORY W Garden $8.05 4/27/60	1674 Bway CI 5-4878	100% C- 7 pro on return of musical 55% B- Cap $64--$39 $37 X $43 $43 $42

"CD PROS & CONS"

PROS: Best Man, Bye Bye Birdie, Fiorello, Five Finger Exercise, Gypsy
La Plume, Miracle Worker, Music Man, My Fair Lady, Once Mattress
Take Me Along, Thurber Carnival, Toys in Attic, West Side Story

Balcony, Country Scandal, Ernest in Love, Fantasticks, Krapps Last Tape
Leave It to Jane, Little Mary Sunshine, 3 Penny Opera

CONS: Sound of Music, Tenth Man

Between 2 Thieves, La Ronde

OFF BROADWAY

BALCONY Circle $4.50 3/3/60	159 Bleecker GR 3-4950	3 Pro- Times, Post, WTS 3 Con- H Trib, News, J Am
BETWEEN 2 THIEVES York $4.50 2/11/60	64 & 1st Av TR 9-4130	3 Pro- Times, J Am, WTS 2 Con- H Trib, Post
CAMINO REAL St Marks $4.50 5/16/60	133-2nd Av OR 4-3530	4 Pro- WTS & J Am raved 2 Con- Times, News-No Mirror
COUNTRY SCANDAL G Mews $3.90 5/5/60	131 W 13 GR 3-6800	6 Pro- No Mirror review Sat to Thur- No Fris
ERNEST IN LOVE Cherry Lane $4.90 5/4/60	38 Comm CH 2-4491	4 Pro- No Mirror 2 Con- J Am, News
FANTASTICKS Sullivan $4.60 5/3/60	181 Sullivan OR 4-3838	5 Pro- 1 Con- H Trib- No Mirror
HIT THE DECK Jones Beach $4.80 6/23/60	NYC Phone CA 1-1000	7 Pro-
JOHN BROWN'S BODY Players $3.90 6/21/60	115 MacDoug AL 4-5076	4 Pro- Times, Post, J Am, WTS 1 Con- H Trib
KRAPPS LAST TAPE Provinc $4.50 1/14/60	133 MacDoug GR 7-9894	6 Pro- No Mirror
LA RONDE T Marquee $3.90 5/9/60	110 E 59 PL 3-2575	1 Pro- WTS (rave) 5 Con-All Mild (No Mirror)
LEAVE IT TO JANE Sher Sq $5 5/2/59	99-7th Av S CH 2-9244	5 Pro- 2 Con- H Trib, News
LITTLE MARY SUNSHINE Orpheum $4.95 11/18/59	126-2nd Av OR 4-8140	6 Pro- 4 raves- No Mirror
PRODIGAL Actors Play $4.60 2/11/60	100-7th Av S OR 5-1036	5 Pro- No Mirror 1 Con- News
3 PENNY OPERA De Lys $4.85 9/20/55	121 Chris WA 4-8782	3 Pro- Times, H Trib, Post
LIVING THEATRE REP. Living $3.45	530-6th Av CH 2-4569	Connection- 5 Con-1 Pro-Post 7/5/59 Theatre Chance-1 pro-Post 6/22/60
GILBERT & SULLIVAN REP Jan Hus $3.45	331 E 74 LE 5-6310	Jul 7 - Jul 11- Cox & Box, Jul 14- July 17- Mikado
SHAKESPEARE REP Stratford, Conn $5.75	NYC Phone CA 6-6047	12th Nite-3 Pro-News, Mir, J Am, -3 Con Tempest-5 Pro-1 Con- Trib- No Mir

NYC THEATRE CALENDAR

Romeo & Juliet- Stratford, Ont -7/11
Dear Aunt Helen- Judson Hall 7/17
3 Avant Garde Plays-Gate 7/21
Measure for Measure- C. Park 7/24
Antony & Cleopatra-Stratford, C 7/29

Man & Superman- Jan Hus- 8/16
Taming of Shrew- Central Park 8/18

Overcoat (Marceau) C. Center 9/6
H. M. S. Pinafore-Phoenix 9/6
When We Dead Awaken- 4th St 9/12
World of Carl Sandberg- Miller 9/12
The Hostage- Cort 9/20
Valmouth- 9/21 (Off)
The Idiot- Gate - 9/25
Irma, La Douce- Plymouth 9/29

Stanley Holloway Revue-Barrym 10/3
Rape of the Belt- 10/5
Becket- St James- 10/6
Mike & Elaine Revue-Golden 10/8
The Wall- Rose- 10/11
Midgie Purvis-Lyceum 10/12
Phinoceros- 10/12
Tenderloin- 46th St 10/17
Tony Somebody- 10/19
General Seeger- 10/19
Face of a Hero- O Neill 10/22
Sweet and Sour-Ambassador 10/25
Invitation to a March-Music Box 10/26
Laurette- Beck- 10/27

Plough & Stars- Phoenix 10/?
Sunrise in My Pocket-T Marquee 10/?
Nat Turner-Casa Galicia-10/?

Unsinkable Molly Brown-Bway 11/3
Come Away With Me- 11/8
Period of Adjustment-Hayes 11/10
Open Up Your Heart- 11/10
Camelot- W Garden 11/17
Advise & Consent-Cort 11/17
Little Moon of Alban-Longacre 11/28

Do Re Mi- St James 11/?

Critics Choice- 12/14
Wildcat- Alvin 12/15

Love and Death- 1/15/61

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